

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senators Schrock and Kristensen announce the following guests are visiting the Legislature today: Vivian Bunger, Pat Boldt, Joyce Jameson and Margaret Bunger from Upland; Hazel Grass and Dolly Grams from Minden and Marlene Koch from Campbell are all here, seated under the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I want to rise...it's difficult to oppose Senator Pedersen's amendment. It isn't that it isn't a good amendment, and I...I leave it up to the body, considering the record yesterday on replacement of federal funds, but I want to call to your attention that this is, once again, replacement of federal funds, \$145,902, and it's something that we had in front of us, as a committee. We did not do it, the Governor did not do it. It has been funded currently in the Department of Corrections using excess funds that they have had. I'm not aware that they have the funds next year to do it or whether they don't, whether they will be able to continue the program or whether they will not, if we do not do this. But the point is, it is another \$146,000, nearly, of General Funds to continue a presently federal funded program. It was started in November 1, 1993, went to October 31, 1996, and has been continued on in the Department of Corrections through this year and, obviously, as Senator Pedersen says, has a reasonable success rate, or a good success rate, so...and it's funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The point is, it's another pickup of federal funds by state General Funds. And so, if I...if this is added to what we did yesterday with D.A.R.E., and I don't know that there's any federal funds in the 1.8 million we did yesterday, but I wouldn't be surprised that there was, we are continue to pick up federal funds by General Funds. If the body wants to do this, it's a good program, I...I guess I can accept that but I simply want to call that to your attention because this is going to continue over the next few years, and we are going to get roundly criticized for increasing our state budget, for whatever reason that it is. And many of it is going to be picking up of federal funds because there is intense pressure to do that, and so sooner or later, I hope, we all have to decide at what point that is, what point can Nebraska, as a relatively small state, pick up federal funds of